

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 17 as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of directing the differentiation of ~~differentiating~~ an isolated stromal cell into an astrocyte ~~a neural cell~~ in a human patient suffering from a disease, disorder or condition of the central nervous system, the method comprising obtaining a bone marrow sample from a human donor, isolating stromal cells from said bone marrow sample, pre-differentiating the isolated stromal cells by co-culturing said stromal cells in the presence of astrocytes, and administering said isolated stromal cells to the central nervous system of said human patient by injection of said pre-differentiated isolated stromal cells into the brain.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said human donor is not suffering from a disease, disorder or condition of the central nervous system and wherein said human donor is syngeneic with said patient.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said human donor is said human patient.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said disease, disorder or condition of the central nervous system is selected from the group consisting of a genetic disease, a tumor, trauma and stroke.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said disease, disorder or condition is injury to the tissues or cells of said central nervous system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said disease, disorder or condition is a brain tumor.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said isolated stromal cells administered to said central nervous system remain present or replicate in said central nervous system.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to administering said isolated stromal cells, said isolated stromal cells are transfected with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic protein, wherein when said protein is expressed in said patient said protein serves to effect treatment of said disease, disorder or condition.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said therapeutic protein is selected from the group consisting of a cytokine, a chemokine, a neurotrophin and antibody and a glioma-toxic protein.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to administering said isolated stromal cells, said isolated stromal cells are transfected with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic protein wherein when said protein is secreted by said cells said protein provides a benefit to said patient.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter/regulatory sequence.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said therapeutic protein is selected from the group consisting of a cytokine, a chemokine, a neurotrophin, an antibody and a glioma-toxic protein.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is a wild type copy of a mutated, non-functioning or under-expressed gene, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter/regulatory sequence and is expressed in said isolated stromal cells.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is a wild type copy of a mutated, non-functioning or under-expressed gene, wherein said isolated nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter/regulatory sequence and is expressed in said stromal cells to generate a protein which is secreted from said isolated stromal cells.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to administration of said isolated stromal cells at least one of the steps of culturing said cells in vitro, ~~introducing isolated nucleic acid into said cells,~~ and pre-differentiating said cells, is performed.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said isolated stromal cells are immunologically isolated.

19-20. (Canceled)